AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically discovering that a contra-party trading process is interested in trading an item, and

in response said discovering, automatically sending a trading proposal to a market process for forwarding to the contra-party trading process.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically generating the trading proposal using a decision table having rules, each rule having at least one condition and at least one action to be taken when the condition is satisfied.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising sending an inquiry to the market process to discover whether there is a contra-party trading process interested in trading the item.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the trading proposal specifies a choice of negotiation methodology.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the negotiation methodology is selected from personal negotiation, direct negotiation via a computer system, and brokered negotiation.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the market process checks the disclosure level of the contra-party trading process before forwarding the trading proposal.

7.   (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

receiving a trading proposal for a posted item,

in response to said receiving, automatically determining how to respond in accordance with an order processing methodology represented in a decision table having rules, each rule having at least one condition and at least one action to be taken when the condition is satisfied, and

automatically responding in accordance with the order processing methodology.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the posted item is posted at a market, and the trading proposal is received from the market.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the market received the trading proposal from a contra-party trading process.

10.   (Original) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:
automatically receiving a price proposal for an item from a first trading process, and
automatically forwarding the price proposal to a second trading process,
wherein contra-party lists associated with the first and second trading processes have been compared, and disclosure compatibility of the first and second trading processes has been checked.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the automatically receiving and forwarding are performed by a market process.

12.   (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:
automatically comparing contra-party lists associated with an active negotiation request and a passive negotiation request,
automatically checking the compatibility of fields of the active and passive negotiation requests, including checking the compatibility of disclosure signatures associated with the active

and passive negotiation requests, said disclosure signatures indicating a disclosure level of a plurality of disclosure levels that direct the amount of information that can be provided to a contra-party, and

automatically reporting to the owners of the active and passive negotiation requests.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the fields are incompatible and the automatically reporting reports an inquiry.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the fields are compatible and the automatically reporting reports a pairing.

15.   (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the automatically comparing and checking are performed by a market process.

16.   (Original) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

receiving a choice of negotiation form,

automatically detecting a trading opportunity according to the chosen negotiation form, and

automatically notifying a party of a trading opportunity using the chosen negotiation form.

17.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein automatically detecting includes checking a discretion level of the party.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein automatically detecting includes checking a preference rating of the party.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the choice of negotiation form is specified during system set-up.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the choice of negotiation form is specified during each trading opportunity.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the negotiation form is selected from at least two of inquiry negotiation, direct negotiation via a computer system, and brokered negotiation.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein inquiry negotiation is the chosen negotiation form and the notice of the trading opportunity includes a text message.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein direct negotiation is the chosen negotiation form and the computer system is operative to transmit messages between the negotiating parties.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein brokered negotiation is the chosen negotiation form and the notice of the trading opportunity identifies the broker.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the broker is a market process.

26.   (Original) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically detecting that a reserve price of a passive side order is at least the reserve price of an active side order, and

automatically advising the owner of at least one of the active and passive side orders that a trade is possible.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising comparing disclosure parameters to determine whether the trade is possible.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising comparing contra-party lists to determine whether the trade is possible.

29. (Currently amended) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically storing an order in association with a disclosure parameter, and

automatically responding to a price inquiry in accordance with the disclosure parameter, wherein each of the stored order and price inquiry is associated with a respective disclosure policy specifying a disclosure level that directs a variable amount of information that can be exchanged.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising notifying an owner of the stored order of the price inquiry.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein each of the stored order and price inquiry is associated with a respective call list, and wherein automatically responding includes automatically checking for compatibility of call lists.

32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, ~~wherein each of the stored order and price inquiry is associated with a respective disclosure policy, and~~ wherein automatically responding includes automatically checking for compatibility of disclosure policies.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein each of the disclosure policies specifies a disclosure level selected from (i) none, (ii) owner, (iii) owner and symbol, (iv) owner, symbol and side, (v) owner, symbol, side, and approximate minimum lot size, (vi) owner,

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symbol, side, minimum lot size and soft price, and (vii) owner, symbol, side, min lot size and hard price.

34.   (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the response is a text message.

35.   (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the response includes a soft price.

36.   (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein the automatically responding is based on a relationship with at least one of the owner of the order and the owner of the price inquiry.

37.   (Original) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically receiving a price inquiry from a party associated with a disclosure parameter, and

automatically responding to the price inquiry in accordance with the disclosure parameter.

38.   (Original) A method of facilitating trading, comprising:

automatically receiving a discovery request for a negotiation,

automatically determining that a trade is not possible by comparing contra-party lists associated with the discovery request and with a file of negotiation requests, and

automatically adding the discovery request to the file of negotiation requests.

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